

Golden Gardens eNews

www.CaliforniaGardenClubs.org

November-December 2023, Vol. 3-16

California Garden Clubs, Inc.
a member of
National Garden Clubs, Inc.
and
Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Happy
Holidays*



Fall is now upon us – with the days growing shorter, the nights growing colder, the changing of the leaves, and an abundance of fall flowers. With fall also comes the beginning of the holiday season: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. This is my favorite time of year, and Halloween is my very favorite holiday, What is yours? Email me with your favorite holiday and why. I am so excited because as I write this article, I am about to travel to Humboldt for its district meeting and then off to Sacramento to Golden Foothills District so I can attend Chicago Park Garden Club's Victorian Tea on November 3. From there, I attend Course 1 of the Environmental School, hosted by Ceres Garden Club on November 4-5.

My President's Project Chairman Terri Taylor and I recently held a yard sale at my home and raised \$1,500+ for the President's Project, "Planting the Seeds of Tomorrow, Today" — Growing the CGCI Scholarship Fund. It was a lot of work, but a lot of fun as well. If you have questions about the President's Project, you can always contact Terri Taylor or me for more information.

My calendar is beginning to fill for next year already so if you are having a district or club meeting or a special event and you would like me to attend, please contact me and I will try my best to make it. If you do your meetings by Zoom, I would love to attend those too if I can.

Speaking of Zoom, you may remember Workshop Wednesdays during the pandemic. I am thinking of bringing them back after the first of the year, and I am wondering what types of workshops you would be interested in attending. Please think about this and let me know what ideas you have for topics that might be interesting and helpful to you. While I am on the topic of workshops, CGCI's Winter Board Meeting will be held on January 29-31, 2024 on Zoom and, on one of those days, CGCI club presidents and treasurers will be invited to attend a special workshop designed just to meet the needs of our clubs. Watch for more information in the next few months for dates and times.

I want to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season and a very happy New Year. It does not matter what holiday you celebrate or how you celebrate, it is a time to gather with friends and family and create lasting memories.

Carol

OFFICIAL CALENDAR

Check the CGCI Calendar of Events for links to brochures, flyers, registration forms, etc. For schools in other states, check the [NGC website](#). See CGCI [Calendar](#) Member Special Events for club, affiliate, associate plant society and district "special" events which are open to the public.

2023

- November 4-5, **Environmental School**, Course 1, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#). [Brochure](#).

2024

- January 6-7, **Environmental School**, Course 2, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#)
- January 29-31, **CGCI Winter Board Meeting** — Virtual
- February 3-4, **Environmental School**, Course 3, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#)
- March 2-3, **Environmental School**, Course 4, Modesto. Sponsor: Ceres Garden Club. Contact: [Berni Hendrix](#)
- TBA, **CGCI Convention**. Host: Golden Foothills District. Chairman: [Sue Bennett](#)
- TBA, **Flower Show Symposium**. More information to be announced.
- June 2-5, **NGC Convention**, Denver, Colorado
- June 21-22, **Landscape Design School**, Course 1, North Hills. Sponsor: Southern California Garden Club. Chairman: [Alexis Slafer](#). Course 2: July 12-13; Course 3: July 26-27; Course 4: August 9-10.
- August 20-23, **PRGC Convention**, Anchorage, Alaska
- September 8-11, **CGCI Fall Board Meeting**, Bear River Casino Resort, Loleta. Chairman: Ellin Beltz. Host: Humboldt District
- September 24, **NGC Fall Board Meeting** — Virtual

Membership Chairmen

- Membership: [Nina Blonski](#)
- Life Membership: [Linda Travis](#)

Committee Chairmen

- Advisory Council: [Lynne Batchelor](#)
- Awards : [Pat Claves](#)
- Board of Trustees: [Julie West](#)
- Budget & Finance: [Rita Desilets](#)
- Bylaws & Policy: [Greg Pokorski](#)
- *Golden Gardens eNews*: [Pat Claves](#)
- Nominating: [Lynne Batchelor](#)
- Strategic Planning: [George Speer](#)
- Website/Technology: [Jane McKee](#)
- Youth Activities/Youth Awards: [Lisa Cosand](#)

Program Chairmen

- Group Tax Exemption: [Sue Bennett](#)
- Liability Insurance: [Launa Gould](#)
- Penny Pines: [Terry Sampson](#)
- Scholarships: [Martha Smyser](#)

Schools Chairmen

- Environmental: [Cynthia Jackson](#)
- Flower Show: [Jennifer Waite](#)
- Gardening: [Greg Pokorski](#)
- Landscape Design: [Alexis Slafer](#)

Awards, Honors & Recognition Chairmen

- Awards Program: [Pat Claves](#)
- Business Commendations, Long-Service Certificates & Member Award of Distinction: [Judy Bates](#)
- California Consultants Council: [Sue Bennett](#)

BOARD RATIFIED PROJECTS

See the CGCI [website](#) for information about these CGCI projects and how to donate.

- Black Point Historic Garden – Chairman [Julie West](#)
- Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorials – Co-Chairmen [George Unrine](#) (South) & [Maria Krenek](#) (North)
- Conejo Valley Botanic Garden – Chairman [Shelley Sparks](#)
- Endowment Funds – Board of Trustees Chairman [Julie West](#)
- Golden Legacy Society – Chairman [George Perko](#)
- President's Project 2023-2025 – Chairman [Terri Taylor](#)
- Sempervirens Fund – Co-Chairmen [Judy Unrine](#) & [Kathy Taylor de Murillo](#)

*Happy
Holidays*

Golden Gardens eNews

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- ◆ For **2024**, please submit articles by the **20th** of the month: **December** (for Jan-Feb issue); **February** (for Mar-Apr issue); **April** (for May-June issue), **June** (July-Aug issue); **August** (Sept-Oct); **October** (Nov-Dec).



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CGCI



At the Santa Maria Inn on December 5, 1931, twenty-two adult and one junior garden clubs joined together to form the California Garden Club Federation (now known as California Garden Clubs, Inc.), organized for the primary purpose of promoting amateur gardening, with a concurrent interest in plant and bird life, and in conservation and enhancing the natural beauty of the State of California. At this organizational meeting, Elvenia (Mrs. Leonard B.) Slosson of Los Angeles was elected president. At the first annual meeting on April 23, 1931, Mrs. Slosson told of her dream of united clubs. She spoke of better flower shows and the need of knowing how to judge them, and of the strength and growth there is in union. On December 5, 1932, the California Garden Club Federation was admitted to membership in National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. (now known as National Garden Clubs, Inc.).

Charter Clubs:

Carpinteria Valley Garden Club
 *Chico Horticultural Society
 Diggers Garden Club, Pasadena
 Desert Forum
 *Fallbrook Garden Club
 Hillsborough Garden Club
 Monterey Peninsula Garden Club
 Nature Club of Southern California

*Ojai Valley Garden Club
 Pomona City Garden Club
 Piedmont Garden Club
 Pasadena Garden Club
 Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club
 Redlands Horticultural and Improvement Soc.
 Sacramento County Garden Club
 San Fernando Valley Horticultural Society

*San Pedro Garden Club
 Santa Barbara Little Gardens Club
 *Southern California Garden Club
 South Pasadena Garden Club
 *Ventura County Garden Club
 *Vista Garden Club
 Raymond Avenue Junior Garden Club

*Of the twenty-three original members of the garden club federation in California, seven are still listed on the current roster.

The success of California Garden Clubs, Inc. in its endeavors of the past ninety-two years proves again the point so often made that gardening is indeed a noble calling, ever changing, always exciting and forever challenging.

Source: [The Diamond Years](#)

GIVINGTUESDAY 2023

Members of the CGCI Board of Trustees hope you have a nice Thanksgiving and enjoy the opportunity to give thanks. Once again, the CGCI Board of Trustees announces that CGCI is participating in **GivingTuesday**, the global day of generosity that will take place on **Tuesday, November 28, 2023**.

GivingTuesday was created in 2012 as a simple idea — a day that encourages people to do good. Since 2012, this idea has grown into a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity. People show their generosity in a variety of ways during **GivingTuesday**. Whether it is helping a neighbor, sharing a skill, or giving to causes, everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts. When so much attention is given to what divides us, generosity brings people together across races, faiths and political views.

With this in mind, CGCI's Board of Trustees is reaching out to individuals, clubs, districts and the general public to offer the opportunity to support the **CGCI Endowment** and **Scholarship Endowment Funds** by participating in **GivingTuesday 2023**, the beginning of the charitable season, when many focus on holiday and end-of-year giving. The two endowment funds were established in 2010 to provide a suitable vehicle to receive donations from those wishing to make a lasting contribution to the CGCI organization or to the scholarship fund. This will be CGCI's fourth year of participating in **GivingTuesday**! Last year, \$950 was donated to the two funds during CGCI's **GivingTuesday** event. **Let's make it \$1500 this year!**

We hope you will consider participating in this global event. The link to the donation form will be available on the home page of the [CGCI website](#) on November 28, 2023 and stay active until January 1, 2023. Make your tax-deductible donation directly online via credit/debit card or PayPal account or send a check. Thank you for your continued generosity.

CGCI PRESIDENT'S PROJECT 2023-2025

By [Terri Taylor](#), Chairman

BUILDING THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND — PLANTING THE SEEDS OF TOMORROW, TODAY

The Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch is still resonating with me. At the meeting, I asked for support to fund the CGCI Scholarship and you did just that! Our President Carol Vallens holds this President's Project dear to her heart. You have donated by giving personally and donating at District and Club levels. You participated in our fund-raising activities throughout our meeting. Because you donated, we raised \$2,273.40. To date, we have received \$8,890.00 in donations. I am hoping to reach \$10,000.00 by December 31, 2023. Let's not stop there! Let's keep up the momentum all the way to Convention 2025.



A life size "Giving Tree" has been created. Its branches are bare. Please continue to help us fill this tree with leaves and flowers. As you donate, a leaf/flower with your name will be placed on the tree. You can also give in honor or memory of someone.

The name will be added. A flower will be added for those who give a single donation of \$200.00. For those who give a single donation of \$500.00 and up will have a bird placed on the tree. Plant the seeds for tomorrow, today. [Donation form](#).

Thank you to the following individuals, clubs and districts for donating so generously.

Donations since the last report through October 17, 2023:

Sue Bennett	Maria & Tom Krenek	Riviera Garden Club	Pauline & Tim Taylor
Natalie Bloxham	Dr. David and Paulette Lee	Alexis Slafer	Terri Taylor
Al & Pat Clayes	Diane Lerner	Sacramento River Valley	Carol Vallens
Roseann Costabile	Shirley Lipa	District	Harriet Vallens
Eduardo Juarez	Long Beach Garden Club	San Fernando Valley District	Gail & Hank Vanderhorst
Adele Kelly	Naples Islands Garden Club	Southern CA Garden Club	Irene Werner
Toni & Rick Knier	Greg & Robin Pokorski	Bette Tang	Bob & Lisa White

AWARDS PROGRAM UPDATE

By [Pat Clayes](#), Chairman



NGC recently changed its *Awards Handbook*. On page 6, NGC has **deleted** the requirement that "all applications with photos of people, including Youth under age 18, must have a signed Publications Release Form for each person involved on file at NGC Headquarters." NGC **replaced** this statement with the following: "By submitting this application, you affirm that you have any required permissions/releases and that the images, photos, and/or videos do not violate or infringe the copyright or other proprietary or intellectual property rights of others. You are giving the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) permission to use the images, photos and/or videos to promote NGC in the future. Images/photos taken at a public event or in a public space do not need photo releases."

So, it looks like NGC does not require signed photo releases any longer, and CGCI has followed suit. Please ignore any reference to include a photo release on any CGCI award evaluation form or in the *Awards Manual*. CGCI has updated all award evaluation forms, the 2023 *Awards Manual*, and the Awards Cover Sheet.

There are two deadlines to apply for awards: **December 1** and **January 10**. Check the [Awards Section](#) on the CGCI website to view the *Awards Manual* that lists all awards and deadlines. All award applications must be sent electronically.

Please do not wait until the last minute to send your award applications. Questions? Contact the [Awards Chairman](#).

LIABILITY INSURANCE



By [Launa Gould](#), Chairman

General Liability Insurance for Clubs

Club and associate plant society treasurers and presidents will soon receive an email with the General Liability Insurance form attached.

CGCI offers General Liability Insurance as a benefit for those qualifying clubs and associate plant societies that have paid their CGCI membership dues. The fee is \$1.25 per member. Payment must be received before the deadline of January 15, 2024. Insurance coverage runs from February 15, 2024 to February 14, 2025. [Link to form.](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULES

By [Carolyn Hoyum](#), Chairman

I am anxiously awaiting the first Flower Show Schedule to arrive so I can start critiquing it. If your district and/or club is sponsoring a flower show, please send a copy of your schedule to me! I would like to help you perfect your schedule. I have been reading and rereading the *Handbook for Flower Shows* so I can more knowledgeably assist you. I am out of California for a year, so the address to send schedules is 2172S 1800E, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106.

Also if you are having problems writing a schedule, you can always call me at [360-581-1671](tel:360-581-1671) and, as my new nanny position is demanding, I will call you back after 7:30 pm. Remember that I am an hour ahead here. So, BRING "EM" ON! I'm waiting!



GARDENING SCHOOLS

By [Greg Pokorski](#), Chairman



What's wrong with this picture? There are scheduled Environmental School courses and Landscape Design School courses listed in the Official Calendar in this publication. That is great! But where are the Gardening School courses? One of our long-time CGCI board members used to remind us that *Garden* is our middle name. So where are the clubs and districts needed to sponsor and

conduct Gardening Schools? This is a wonderful education project about many aspects of gardening that can be a great benefit to your members and provide positive outreach to the public. This chairman will be happy to provide information and walk you through the process.

At the meeting of the California Consultants Council at CGCI's Fall Board Meeting at Harris Ranch in September, many guests were present and learned many things about NGC's educational schools. Hopefully this will inspire some to offer these valuable programs.

Zoom Gardening School courses continue to be scheduled across the country. There is one being held in Georgia on November 2-3, 2023. Those Gardening Consultants who still need to refresh this year should request extensions from this chairman before December 31. Then they can refresh at a Massachusetts Zoom course being held April 25-27, 2024. Attend one or more of these courses to learn how your club or district can provide a school to enrich your members.

*Let us be grateful for the people who make us happy;
they are the charming gardeners who make our souls bloom.*



PENNY PINES

PENNY PINES DONATIONS OCTOBER 2023 REPORT

Total donations to date: **\$26,624.00**

H = In Honor of / M = In Memory of

By [Terry Sampson](#), Chairman

As your new [Penny Pines](#) Chairman, I am looking at this chairmanship as a new adventure. I am learning so much about our National Forests and the Penny Pines Program. Most of you may already know a lot of this information but, for our new members, I would like to tell you a little bit more about this wonderful program.

The very first Penny Pines Plantation was sponsored by the San Francisco Sports Women's Association in 1941. The plantation was for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in Northern California. Why is a Plantation \$68? In 1941, a seedling could be produced for about a penny each. Approximately 68 seedlings were used to plant a typical acre. So, \$68 at that time could plant ten acres of trees. In 1964, the original cooperative agreement was rewritten to include reforestation as well. The Penny Pines Program plays a vital role in renewing our National Forests. Trees help the ground store precious water, protect against soil erosion, and add to the scenic beauty of our National Forests.

Many clubs have requested information to arrange for representatives from our National Forests to speak at their club meetings. However, due to time constraints and budgets, National Forests representatives are not available at this time. As an alternative, I have created a written presentation about the Penny Pines Program that clubs could present to their members. If you would like a copy of this presentation, please send an email to me.

BAY BRIDGES DISTRICT		ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT		H: Carol Zuvella	\$136
Eden Garden Club		San Juan Capistrano Garden Club		H: Cookie Jones	\$136
M: Barbara Ray Mansfield	\$68	H: San Juan Capistrano Garden Club	\$68		
H: Dona Pedvin	\$68				
Friends of Heirloom Flowers		PALMS TO PINES DISTRICT		VALLEY LODE DISTRICT	
M: Lynn Trostad	\$68	"A" Garden Club of Big Bear Valley		Ceres Garden Club	
Pinole Garden Club		M: Jackie Wilmeth	\$68	H: Ceres Garden Club	\$68
H: Lee Martin	\$68			Manteca Garden Club	
		PALOMAR DISTRICT		H: Eric Teberg	\$68
BUTTES DISTRICT		Fallbrook Garden Club, Inc.		H: Beth Stitt	\$68
Magalia Beautification Association		M: James Foster	\$68	Ripon Garden Club	
H: Magalia Beautification Association	\$204	Chula Vista Garden Club		H: Markle Family	\$68
		H: Chello Chello, Wendy Pires	\$172	H: Paoluccio Family	\$68
DIABLO FOOTHILLS DISTRICT				H: Manuel Taveras	\$68
Discovery Bay Garden Club		SACRAMENTO RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT		H: Firefighters & Volunteers	\$68
M: William Pato	\$68	Clarksburg Garden Club		H: Donald Utsumi, Kathleen Utsumi	\$136
M: Leonard Cheney	\$68	M: Vola Jackson	\$68	M: Lillian Machado	\$68
		River Valley Garden Club		M: Reece Koa Teicheroebuen	\$68
GOLDEN FOOTHILLS DISTRICT		H: Donna & Phil Hansen	\$68	Turlock Garden Club	
H: Nina Blonski	\$68			H: Jessica's House team, Carnegie Rose	\$340
Chicago Park Garden Club		SAN FERNANDO VALLEY DISTRICT		Team, Bunny Isaacson, Pat Holloway,	
M: Kathleen Herwatt	\$68	Burbank-Valley Garden Club		Bebe Frank	
		H: Ray Law, Grace Davis, Charlene	\$340	MISCELLANEOUS	
LUTHER BURBANK DISTRICT		Gallagher, Steve List, Robin Gemmill		Covina Women's Club	
Petaluma Garden Club		Southern California Garden Club		M: Bruce Phillips	\$68
H: Petaluma Garden Club	\$68	H: Chaz Perea, Enrique Quevado	\$136	Tim & Nancy Bunnell	
		H: Robin Pokorski	\$68	M: Betty Grace Den Dulk	\$68
MENDO-LAKE DISTRICT		SANTA CLARA VALLEY DISTRICT		Joaquin Jeepers Club	
Clearlake Trowel & Trellis Garden Club		Green Thumb Garden Club of Milpitas		H: Joaquin Jeepers Club	\$204
M: Kathleen "Kak" Sull	\$68	H: Mary Ann Udoutch	\$136		
H: Ray & Irene Tisell	\$68				

Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world.

—John Muir

ARBORETA & BOTANIC GARDENS

By [Sherry Molinari](#), Chairman

South Coast Botanic Garden

Unique from the start, South Coast Botanic Garden is one of the world's first botanic gardens to be developed over a sanitary landfill. The Garden is a masterpiece of creative land reclamation and environment improvement for all to share. It is a living testimonial to the fact that land reclamation not only offers a practical solution to refuse disposal problems but also beautifies and improves land values at the same time.

At one point in time, the Garden was covered by the Pacific Ocean and in the ocean were vast populations of single cell algae called diatoms. As the diatoms died, they settled to the floor of the ocean and collected, leaving behind a sediment known as crude diatomite or diatomaceous earth. This earth has myriad of industrial uses. During the early 1900s the Dicalite Company began mining diatomaceous earth, but at this time it was mostly surface mining. By 1929, open-pit mining was being pursued. In 1944, the mine was sold to the Great Lakes Carbon Company and mining began in earnest. By 1956, production of the mine declined and the site was sold to the County of Los Angeles. From the very beginning, the County planned to utilize the best possible technology and to reclaim the land for future use. In the meantime, the site was used as a

sanitary landfill to help meet the County's growing landfill needs.

In 1961, private citizens, headed by Frances Young, prevailed upon the County Board of Supervisors to convert this site into a botanic garden. In April 1961, the first major planting took place with over 40,000 donated trees, shrubs, and other plants. There are now more than 200,000 plants. Bursting with color and varied plant and wildlife, the grounds are a spectacular site.

South Coast Botanic Garden is located at 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274 and is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm daily. The garden is free to members; adults: \$15; students with ID: \$11; children 5-12 years of age: \$5; children 4 years of age and under: free. The third Tuesday of each month is free.



Photo Source: [South Coast Botanic Garden – Parks & Recreation \(lacounty.gov\)](#)

CONSERVATION

The Pallid Bat is California's State Bat!

Senate Bill No. 732, signed into law by the Governor on October 8, 2023, established the Pallid bat (*Antrozus pallidus*) as the official state bat. The bill states that bats have provided California with more than \$1 billion worth of pest control to the state's agricultural land. They have also helped reduce the state's fire risk with their consumption of bark beetles and wood borers.

According to [LAist](#), these bats "can be found in the desert, oak woodlands, coastal redwood forests, and in the pine forests of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It has tan fur, a white underbelly, large ears, a pig-like snout, small eyes, and a wingspan of up to 16 inches. The Pallid bat is preyed on by ground predators like foxes, raccoons, snakes, cats, and large amphibians. Unlike a lot of other bat species, it can catch its prey on the ground as well as in the air."



Photo credit: ©MerlinTuttle.org

HERBIE THE HERBALIST

Herbs and spices commonly found in Thanksgiving dishes include:

Allspice, Bay Leaf, Cardamom, Cinnamon, Coriander, Cloves, Ginger, Marjoram, Nutmeg, Parsley, Pepper, Rosemary, Sage, Savory, Tarragon, and Thyme.

NATIVE PLANTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

[Donna Payton](#), Insect & Pollinator Chairman



Salvia spathacea
(Hummingbird Sage)

Even just growing one native plant or a square foot of local wildflowers on your balcony, patio, or in your garden or yard, can make a difference for wildlife. How? Native plants are food for insects, and insects are the little things that run the world. Native plants provide food for other insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and many mammals in the form of themselves. Thus, by growing native plants, you are feeding wildlife including insects that drive the food web.

But aren't insects bad for plants? Insects can cause some leaf damage, which is true, especially butterfly and moth caterpillars which munch on the leaves, but that is not bad unless you are entering that plant in a flower show. If you can tolerate some leaf damage from caterpillars, you will attract and feed local wildlife such as beautiful birds foraging for those caterpillars or bees and butterflies working the flowers to gather nectar and pollen.

The more native plants you have, the more likely you are to have a nest of baby birds nearby, because it takes thousands of caterpillars (fat and protein filled sausages) to raise a brood of chicks, so mother birds put down stakes where there is likely enough food.

There are other benefits to native plants too. Native plants are better suited to our seasonal rainfall pattern and our increasingly hotter, drier climate than the ornamentals from Europe and Asia commonly sold in nurseries and big box stores. The ornamentals that are widely sold here are alien to our local insects. Since our insects did not evolve with these plants, they are not able to overcome the plants' chemical defenses which protect the plants from being eaten.

As a result, plants which are native to Europe or Asia stay looking perfect, like plastic flowers from a Michaels store, because nothing mars them. But the side effect of that is that they do not feed anything and they take valuable real estate from a plant that would be much more useful to hungry local wildlife, including insects.

To find which native plants you can grow in your area to feed the most wildlife, go to the [National Wildlife Federation Plant Finder](#) or [Calscape](#) and enter your zip code to find which flowers, grasses, trees and shrubs host the largest number of caterpillars, so that you can choose the plants which will do the most good and let nature's show begin!

SEMPERVIRENS FUND

By [Judy Unrine](#) & [Kathy Taylor de Murillo](#), Co-Chairmen



Sempervirens Fund

Recently, the Sempervirens Fund announced the purchase of 51 acres at Castle Rock Hollow in the Santa Cruz Mountains. From the announcement: "It is official, Castle Rock Hollow is protected forever. Santa Cruz District Superintendent of State Parks stated that by protecting Castle Rock Hollow the southwestern border of Castle Rock State Park is completed, the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail is realigned, and nearly 6,000 protected acres of habitat and wildlife corridors are connected."

Please note that CGCI members have supported the Sempervirens Fund since 1973 and you too can help make a difference. CGCI thanks **Riviera Garden Club** and **Millie Benson** for their recent generosity. These donations continue the fight to protect and preserve these beautiful redwoods for future generations. The [donation form](#) is on the website. Many thanks for your continuing support for this long-time state project.

Sempervirens Big Basin Recovery Fund

CGCI created the Sempervirens Big Basin Recovery Fund in February 2021 to assist recovery at Big Basin Redwoods State Park after devastation caused by the August 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Wildfire. Over \$25,000 was donated and sent to the Sempervirens Fund, and the Recovery Fund was closed on June 30, 2023. Thank you for your generous donations.

SEASONAL SUCCULENTS

By [Ellyn Meikle](#), Cactus & Succulent Chairman

This time of year, we see a beautiful cactus and a lovely succulent available for table tops and hanging baskets in abundance. They are often given as gifts to celebrate the winter holiday season in addition to decorate one's surroundings for a holiday spirit.

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*), commonly called spurge, is in the family *Euphorbiaceae*. They are a colorful succulent and are sold in plentitude during the winter festive time of year. The cultivated varieties are available with white, pink, mottled, and striped bracts, but the solid red varieties, in several shades, remain in greatest demand. It is the second most popular plant sold - orchids being the first.

This *Euphorbia* is indigenous to Mexico and Central America where it grows in wet, wooded ravines and on rocky hillsides. They are a popular holiday plant because of their colorful bracts (leaves). The tiny yellow flowers in the center are called cyathia. The colorful bracts attract insects to the flowers and will drop after pollination.

*Euphorbia pulcherrima*

Poinsettias have a milky juice fluid in the stems and leaves which can be irritating to persons or animals sensitive to it, but the claim that poinsettias are deadly poisonous is exaggerated. Do not touch this latex substance to your eyes and wash it off skin immediately to prevent irritation. Clean your gardening tools after exposing them to this substance.

Suggested reading: [How to Select and Care for a Healthy Poinsettia](#)

Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera*) is in the *Cactaceae* family. *Schlumbergera* is a small genus of cacti with six to nine species found in the coastal mountains of south-eastern Brazil. Common names for these cacti refer to their flowering season. In the Northern Hemisphere they are commonly called Christmas cactus, as they bloom during the winter holidays. In Brazil the genus is referred to as *Flor de Maio* (May flower), reflecting their autumn period in which they flower in the Southern Hemisphere. Most of the popular houseplants are cultivars of *Schlumbergera*, rather than species, with flowers in white, pink, yellow, orange, red or purple. They are distinct in appearance and shape from most other cacti since they grow on trees or rocks as an epiphytic cactus.

Suggested reading: [Riverside Master Gardeners](#)

*Schlumbergera bridgesii*

THAT'S NOT MY JOB!

Terri Taylor's Inspiration at the 2023 Fall Board Meeting

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

FLORAL DESIGN

Carolands Garden Club Members at the San Mateo County Fair!



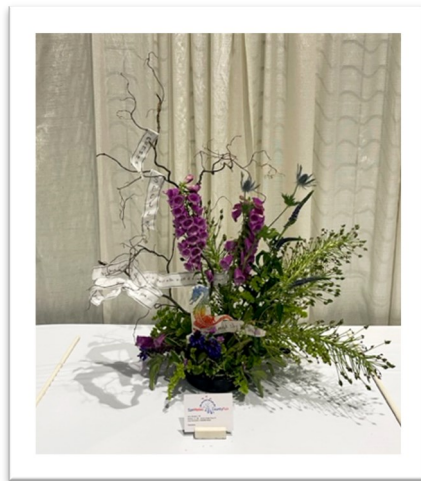
Carolands GC President Susie Mawdsley with Dorothy Brentari, winner of Best of Show

Last summer, members of the Carolands Garden Club (Bay Ocean District) entered floral designs in the San Mateo County Fair. The class titles were: *Wizards' Magic* (Novice), *Castles in the Clouds*, *Fiery Dragon Breath*, *Fairy Rings*, *The Elves have Painted the Leaves*, and *Have you Seen that Unicorn*. One member said, "It was a wonderful exhibit made possible by some extremely creative and talented women. Considering many in the club are novices and are learning this beautiful artistic medium, the outcome was incredible."



Show Co-Chairman Irene Steiner, Bay Ocean District Director Nancy McDougal, and Carolands GC President Susie Mawdsley

Photo Collage of Some of the Entries



FROM OUR CLUBS & DISTRICTS

Happy Sustainable Holidays!

By Maria Orefice, Member of Southern California Garden Club



December holidays are a wonderful time of the year. Although intentions are good, these holidays can produce an excessive amount of waste. How can we as gardeners and stewards of the earth contribute to a more environmentally friendly holiday gift giving season? Here are a few suggestions to consider:

- ◆ Consider quality not quantity for presents. Surveys have shown that many gift recipients do not like their gifts, so think about one quality item that will last—gifts with meaning, value, and purpose. For instance, a donation to a non-profit will benefit the organization and the gift receiver. Secret Santa is an excellent idea as it means you can put time and thought into one present. Choosing to give less presents will also ensure people don't end up with lots of little ones they don't need, creating more waste.
- ◆ Another great way to help the environment and to save some money in the process is to make your own presents. Whether you love baking, sewing, knitting, crocheting, or painting, get creative this season and give a handmade gift.
- ◆ How about a gift of an experience, such as theatre, concert or movie tickets, a restaurant gift card, a cooking class, a weekend getaway? The receiver experiences the holidays twice, once when they get the gift, and then when they go on the experience.
- ◆ We gardeners can give wonderful, earth-friendly gifts from our local nurseries. A potted houseplant, a California native plant, a variety of seed packets, and a bird feeder are some of the earth-friendly and useful gifts we can select.
- ◆ Shop locally and support our neighborhood small businesses. Often these shops have unique and special gifts. This includes frequenting your local thrift shop. Often vintage clothing and furniture can be found. Used but lovely holiday decorations are available too. Buying second-hand items saves on resources needed to make new products and reduces landfill waste.
- ◆ Switch to eco-friendly wrapping paper. Thousands of miles of wrapping paper end up in landfills annually. Ribbons and glittery wrapping paper cannot be recycled, so avoid those papers. Choose recyclable paper or brown eco-friendly paper and use last year's cards as gift tags. Or wrap presents in fabric. *Furoshiki* is a traditional Japanese method of using cloth to wrap and transport gifts. The recipient can reuse the fabric again for other gifts as well.
- ◆ Another zero-waste idea are plantable greeting cards. The biodegradable paper card is planted in soil, the seeds grow and the paper will decompose. A nice selection of these cards can be found on Etsy.

Give mother earth a gift—make merry while helping to reduce waste and make the world a little greener.

Valley Lode District's New District Life Membership Program

At the 2023 CGCI Fall Board Meeting, Valley Lode District (VLD) Director Paula Elias was happy and proud to announce the Valley Lode District Life Membership Program. Similar to the CGCI Life Membership, the district will honor members and other individuals while supporting the new district Scholarship Program. A VLD Life Membership may be purchased for \$50 to honor an individual or for oneself. The \$50 will be dedicated to fund the district's scholarship program.



Thanks to the sponsorship from the VLD advisory board, Berni Hendrix, Bob Taylor and Judy Schepman, new VLD Life Members will receive welcome letters, beautiful pins, and their names included in the VLD annual yearbook. Overall, the VLD Life Membership will support the growth of the district youth. Paula Elias said, "The Valley Lode District is very excited to kick off this new recognition and watch the scholarship fund grow!"

Conejo Valley Garden Club Members Visit The Gardens of the World



The French Garden

Members of the Conejo Valley Garden Club recently toured [The Gardens of the World](#) in Thousand Oaks where they explored the world's cultures through the gardens. It is a privately owned garden complex that was created as a gift to the City of Thousand Oaks. Members visited all of the gardens: Japanese Garden, French Garden, Mission Courtyard, English Perennial & Rose Garden, and Italian Garden, plus the Bandstand.

Photo Source: wikipedia.org



YOUTH

Colfax Garden Club's Youth Garden Update



Even when school was out, work continued at the Colfax Elementary School Youth Garden. Preparing for the Garden and Art Tour in June, two members worked for many hours weeding, planting, and putting down bark to improve the garden's overall look. Another member planted wonderful vegetables and flowers that continue to grow. In late June, members were busy weeding, chopping back out-of-control blackberry bushes and watering. They were rewarded for their hard work by harvesting peas, beans, celery, and strawberries. The grape vines are going crazy and already beginning to produce grapes.



Pumpkin seeds were planted in early July so the students watched the pumpkins grow when they returned in August. This summer-into-fall garden is possible because the school has installed effective irrigation.

Youth Contests — Important Deadlines

December 1, 2023 — Postmark deadline for the following youth contests, entries to be received by the Youth Awards Chairman [Lisa Cosand](#):

- Sculpture Contest — [Entry form](#).
- Poetry Contest Theme: "I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE, SOMETHING GREEN OUTSIDE — CELEBRATING OUR GREEN WORLD" — [Entry form](#).

- Pollinator Poster Contest — [Entry form](#).
- Junior Essay Contest Title: "THE LIVES OF PLANTS" — [Entry form](#).

January 24, 2024 — Deadline for **Smokey Bear** posters to be received by the CGCI Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman [Charlotte Tucker](#). Remember, only posters depicting Smokey Bear will be accepted this awards year. [Entry form](#).

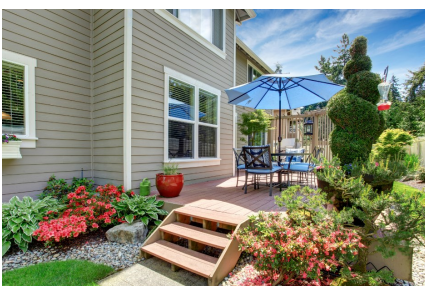
CALIFORNIA CONSULTANTS COUNCIL



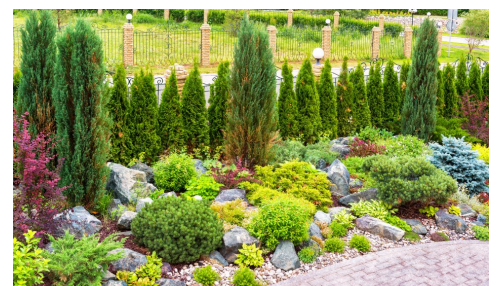
LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMMENDATION Awarded to Individuals or Groups for Good Land Use

Did you know that the California Consultants Council (CCC) offers a Landscape Design Commendation?

The Landscape Design Commendation is presented by the CCC in recognition of good land use. This award is given only to individuals or groups upon the recommendation of individual council members, clubs or districts. To nominate an individual or group for this award, complete an [application form](#) with the required attachments to the CCC Landscape Design Chairman [Carolyn Villi](#).



Please submit request at least one (1) month prior to the desired presentation date. For award to be presented at convention, the request must be received by February 1. Please do not schedule an award presentation or publicize the proposed award until the CCC Landscape Design Chairman advises that the requested award has been approved by the Council.



NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC. & PACIFIC REGION GARDEN CLUBS, INC.



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

PLANT AMERICA Wildlife Habitat Certification Program Gardening for Wildlife

As garden club members, we should be aiming to practice sustainability in our personal landscapes. Habitats are being lost to development, and we can hold the key to preserving them for future generations. As development pushes natural habitats further and further back, we can encourage wildlife to co-exist with us in our own landscapes. Biodiversity is a key to successful wildlife habitat. You get to choose the wildlife you want to encourage. It may be only birds, small mammals, and insects. You can provide food, water, cover, and places for animals and insects to raise their young. Work to reduce areas of lawn. Make conscious choices when choosing plants for your garden. Look for plants that are native and keep away from invasive species. Good plant choices provide fruit and seeds for native wildlife. Native trees make good choices. Keep a clean water source such as a small fountain or birdbath, or if you have enough property, build a pond. Provide a wood pile or leave a dead tree.

Check the NGC website for the application and get your garden registered as a National Garden Club Certified Wildlife Habitat. You will receive a certificate, and you may purchase a plaque to display in your garden. NGC is looking forward to seeing these plaques in member gardens across the United States. To apply, [click here](#).



Pacific Region Garden Clubs, Inc.

Blue & Gold Star Pacific Region Project

PRGC has a new project this term — the Blue & Gold Star Region Project. It involves taking two photographs of your club's, district's or state's Blue or Gold Star Marker over the course of two seasons. Here are the simple steps to participate in the project.

1. Visit your club's, district's or state's Blue or Gold Star Marker.
2. Take a photograph.
3. Identify the marker's exact location and the sponsor of the marker.
4. Send photograph with required information to [Robin Pokorski](#).
5. Visit the same Blue or Gold Star Marker in another season of the year.
6. Repeat #2 above.
7. Repeat #4 above.

See rules on the [PRGC website](#).



**Bless the gardens of the world, the soil and rain and sunshine, and the work of all who sow and reap. Give abundant harvests, and teach us to share them with justice.
God of grace, hear our prayer. Bless the gardens of our community,
the shelter of families, the fragrance of friendship.**